



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

Roy Cooper
Governor

20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N. C. 27699-0301

Dear Faith Leaders:

We want to express our gratitude to North Carolina's faith leaders. Throughout the pandemic, not only have you provided much-needed source of prayers and comfort to people in mourning in our state, you have performed countless acts of loving kindness as you cared for and sustained our communities.

But the pandemic is still with us, and we all have more work to do. We write today to ask for your help so that we can keep people well, save lives, and end this pandemic.

Getting vaccinated is one of the deepest expressions of our shared values to protect human life and love our neighbor. It is an act of love to our families and our communities. While we have made much progress in the state, too many people are needlessly getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. Our hospitals are strained, and in other states we've seen that care is not readily available for people experiencing non-COVID life-threatening health crises. We need your help.

1. Direct your congregation and faith community to trustworthy sources about COVID-19 vaccines, like doctors, other medical providers, and the NCDHHS website

YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov. Good people are being misinformed. As a trusted spiritual leader, you can help those who have questions get accurate information. Help educate your community on why and how to get vaccinated by:

- Posting and sharing vaccine information in common and highly visible areas in your house of worship.
- Sending a letter or email to your congregants sharing resources that provide accurate information about vaccines and encouraging people to avoid sharing misinformation on social media.
- Talking to your congregation about why our faith calls upon us to protect our health and those around us by getting vaccinated.
- Adding a message encouraging people to get vaccinated to your organization's voicemail.

2. Be a vaccine ambassador. Some people need to be assured that the vaccines are safe and effective. Others need to be confident that they and their communities are not being treated unjustly. Share your vaccine story with your congregation. Encourage your congregants to share their stories.

3. Host or sponsor vaccine events. Imagine how many lives could be saved if every house of worship served as a vaccination site! Our Healthier Together team may be able to help support

you in coordinating the logistics to host onsite vaccination events. The Healthier Together teams are organized by region and you can find contact information [online](#).

We are grateful to those of you who have been leading such efforts across the state and hope that others will join you. Our [communications toolkit](#) has numerous resources to support your efforts. You can request printed materials by completing this [online](#) form.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "C".

Roy Cooper

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mandy K. Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "C".

Mandy K. Cohen, M. D.